CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for determining computer system software load process, comprising:

loading computer system software on a computer; and

providing a marker file in said loaded computer system software, said marker file indicating whether said loaded computer system software was loaded in a computer manufacturer's factory, loaded by a system restoration CD (SRCD), or loaded by downloading an image.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

when a program running on said computer abnormally terminates and said computer is able to send said marker file to a central authority, sending said marker file to said central authority by said computer.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein said marker file is used by said computer manufacturer to trace a cause of why said program running on said computer abnormally terminates.

4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

when a program running on said computer abnormally terminates and said computer is not able to send said marker file to a central authority, sending said marker file to said central authority by said computer after said computer reboots.

5.   The method of claim 4, wherein said marker file is used by said computer manufacturer to trace a cause of why said program running on said computer abnormally terminates.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said marker file is dynamically generated when said loaded computer system software was loaded by downloading an image.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said marker file is a static marker file loaded from said system restoration CD (SRCD) when said loaded computer system software was loaded by said system restoration CD (SRCD).

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said marker file, when said loaded computer system software was loaded in a computer manufacturer's factory, is either dynamically generated or a static marker file loaded by said factory.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said loaded computer system software is an operating system.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein said loaded computer system software is a device driver.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said computer manufacturer is an OEM.

12. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for determining computer system software load process, said method comprising:

loading computer system software on a computer; and

providing a marker file in said loaded computer system software, said marker file indicating whether said loaded computer system software was loaded in a computer manufacturer's factory, loaded by a system restoration CD (SRCD), or loaded by downloading an image.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said method further comprising:

when a program running on said computer abnormally terminates and said computer is able to send said marker file to a central authority, sending said marker file to said central authority by said computer.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein said marker file is used by said computer manufacturer to trace a cause of why said program running on said computer abnormally terminates.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein said method further comprising:

when a program running on said computer abnormally terminates and said computer is not able to send said marker file to a central authority, sending said marker file to said central authority by said computer after said computer reboots.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein said marker file is used by said computer manufacturer to trace a cause of why said program running on said computer abnormally terminates.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein said marker file is dynamically generated when said loaded computer system software was loaded by downloading an image.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein said marker file is a static marker file loaded from said system restoration CD (SRCD) when said loaded computer system software was loaded by said system restoration CD (SRCD).

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein said marker file, when said loaded computer system software was loaded in a computer manufacturer's factory, is either dynamically generated or a static marker file loaded by said factory.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein said loaded computer system software is an operating system.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said loaded computer system software is a device driver.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein said computer manufacturer is an OEM.

23.   A method for determining computer software load process, comprising:

        loading computer software on a computer; and

        providing a marker file in said loaded computer software, said marker file indicating whether said loaded computer software was loaded in a computer manufacturer's factory, loaded by a computer-readable medium, or loaded by downloading an image.

24.   The method of claim 23, further comprising:

        when a program running on said computer abnormally terminates and said computer is able to send said marker file to a central authority, sending said marker file to said central authority by said computer.

25.   The method of claim 23, further comprising:

        when a program running on said computer abnormally terminates and said computer is not able to send said marker file to a central authority, sending said marker file to said central authority by said computer after said computer reboots.

26.   The method of claim 23, wherein said loaded computer software is application software.

27.   The method of claim 23, wherein said computer manufacturer is an OEM.